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SIPDIS

FOR IO/RHS REBECCA JOVIN AND DRL/MLGA LYNN SICADE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/03/2018  
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [UN](#) [UY](#)  
SUBJECT: URUGUAY ON U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS PRIORITIES IN UNGA'S  
THIRD COMMITTEE

REF: STATE 93981

Classified By: DCM ROBIN MATTHEWMAN, FOR REASON 1.4 (B)

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Summary  
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11. (C) Emboff raised reftel points with MFA Director of Human Rights Alejandra de Bellis September 4. De Bellis said that Uruguay would oppose any "no-action motions" raised in the Third Committee; would likely support country specific resolutions against Burma, the DPRK, Zimbabwe, Sudan, but would abstain on an Iran resolution; and will abstain on the Defamation of Religions resolution. End Summary.

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No-Action Motions  
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12. (C) De Bellis explained that Uruguay has a principled position against "no-action motions." The GOU will vote against all such motions, even if it intends to eventually vote against the resolution the motion intends to suppress, as Uruguay believes such motions are contrary to the spirit of multilateralism.

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Country-Specific Resolutions  
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13. (C) Uruguay would prefer that no country-specific human rights resolutions be tabled at the Third Committee, as it still believes the UN Human Rights Council is the appropriate venue. Still, Uruguay would likely vote in favor of any resolutions condemning Burma, the DPRK, Zimbabwe, and/or Sudan, according to de Bellis. The decision to abstain on an Iran resolution has in the past been taken at the presidential level, de Bellis noted.

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Thematic Resolutions  
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14. (C) De Bellis said Uruguay will abstain on the Defamation of Religions resolution, as it characterizes Islam as the only religion subject to defamation. When asked why Uruguay would not therefore vote against the resolution, De Bellis replied that there are elements of the text with which Uruguay agrees. She did not specify those elements. De Bellis gave no indication that Uruguay would be interested in forming part of a cross-regional coalition to draft and co-sponsor a resolution dealing with assaults on freedom of expression.  
Baxter